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Order Memories

A Service for the Order
of the Eastern Star



In Memoriam

Dedicated to

My Mother

and to

Others of Blessed Memory

Who

“Have Seen His Star in the East”

ALTA M. SULLIVAN

Grand Matron of Iowa, 1913

OCT 29 1919

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"I sit and think when the sunset's gold
Is flushing river and hill and shore,
I shall one day stand by the water cold,
And list to the sound of the boatman's oar;
I shall watch for a gleam of the snowy sail,
I shall hear the boat as it gains the strand;
I shall pass from sight with the boatman pale,
To the better shore of the spirit land.
I shall know the loved who have gone before;
And joyfully sweet will the meeting be,
When over the river, the peaceful river,
The Angel of death shall carry me."



GRAND PATRON: Our Memorial Service is held in honor of our Loved and Lost who have walked in the light of the Star. This light may shed effulgence upon others who have not caught the vision and we welcome them to our service.

Each year we come athirst for the sweet communion which memory brings in the thought of our Loved Ones. Sorrow has a refining influence and tender reflections of glory when accompanied by the fellowship of congenial spirits. While our lives seem strong and brave our hearts are beating funeral marches to eternity and many dear ones have been gathered in Paradise since we last met. We enshrine their virtues on tablets of our hearts. Their generous impulses and ministrations of kindness, praise and love are left to us as rich legacies. For this inheritance we shall carry higher ideals of life and joy instead of sorrow.

SISTER GRAND MARSHAL: The Grand Matron and her official staff desire to pay homage to the memory of our deceased members.

GRAND MARSHAL, (Goes to the door and says): The Grand Patron announces that the Grand Chapter of Sorrow is prepared for your entrance.

GRAND OFFICERS enter as for opening Chapter and take stations while "When the Mists Have Rolled Away" is being sung.

The Matron is escorted to the East without direction, accompanied by low music, while the Associate Patron (or Patron if in local) recites: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

GRAND MATRON (ascends dias, receives gavel and seats audience but officers remain standing): In the sacred sanctuary of our loved ones our thoughts are receptive of beautiful, tender memories. In this twilight hour when the mist enshrouds the forms we loved let our vision sense the beauties of spiritual perception and acknowledge the wisdom of a wise Providence. A better understanding of God and His creation will aid us in solving many problems. His laws held in obeisance bring joy, animation, truth and love, consecration and righteousness.

Moses interpreted God's laws as the Ten Commandments. Jesus' demonstration of the decalogue in His human ministration was acknowledgment of supreme love and its subsequent corollaries. We are made in His image and likeness and by practice of His precepts we must reflect His qualities,

"Revealing in the eternal plan
God's measure of a perfect man."

In these melancholy hours minor chords hold the dominant tones, but they are resilient in qualities with happy and more joyous cadences of other days. The charm of music will soothe the broken heart and bring us in harmony with that unseen chorus singing peans of praise to the King of Kings.

Choir sings "Face to Face."

Prayer: Eternal Presence, Love Divine abide with us, Thou who dost understand and knowest the secret mysteries of our hearts. Make us tender, pure and lovely in Thy sight. Endue us with Thy grace that we may see through the darkness and know Thou art our comfort in life, our guide in death, our refuge when encompassed by storms and that the clouds only obscure the golden sunset with its wistful symphony of color. Let peace abound in our hearts. Be especially near those who are in sorrow and may Thy infinite mercy reveal Thy light to all who need Thee. May our loss and the pathos it brings make us better Eastern Stars in our walks through the labyrinth of life; make us wiser, truer, gentler, broader.

We ask Thy blessing and acknowledge Thee, "Our Father, which art in heaven," etc. (Officers repeat or chant Lord's Prayer in unison with Chaplain).

GRAND MATRON: Sister Grand Secretary, While bells are tolling a requiem for our departed

loved ones we will have an unresponsive roll call.
(Low bell tolls while)

GRAND SECRETARY calls roll in abbreviated form giving any Past Grand Officers' names (or if in local Chapter names of all) who have passed on during the year.

GRAND MATRON: My Sister Associate what assurance have you that we shall join our loved ones?

ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON: Worthy Grand Matron, while a veil of mystery hangs between us and the portal we call death our faith and hope in the newer life are like a placid pool which pictures the objects on its banks, or reflects from its clear depths the burnished lustre of the stars.

The flowered upholstered grave into which we lowered our loved one, **spiritually** assumes a different aspect. Where there is death life shall come, decay will be followed by a new birth, the mortal will be crowned with immortelles and joy will follow sorrow. The germ is left in the seed only to come again in regal splendor. Jesus met death and conquered it, and this is considered his crowning work, thereby establishing the immortality of the soul.

GRAND MATRON: My Sisters in the North and in the South, have you made the impressions from your stations favorable and lasting?

ASSOCIATE GRAND CONDUCTRESS: In welcoming and receiving candidates the preparation that follows is for progress toward Goodliness and Perfection. To know and to understand divine principle in tangible form is the fundamental object of the Eastern Star.

GRAND CONDUCTRESS: "Where there is no vision the people perish," The dawn which came with the lifting of the veil at the altar visions the sublimity of an all-wise Philosopher. The occult or hidden meaning of our cabalistic motto has been revealed in a truer light than when received in our Chapter. Our sisters and brothers now see and understand spiritual things.

GRAND MATRON: Worthy Grand Patron, may we again hear that sweet story echoed through the ages?

GRAND PATRON: (Star Points form a star by extending arms, fingers touching) We have been guided through the coil of centuries by that light which gave promise of eternal day. The Star was first observed by mankind during the cruelties committed by King Herod in Palestine. It then guided the Wise Men to the place where lay the lowly Jesus. The Star is a symbol of light which heralded the nativity of Christ. It is divinely revealing and rich in comfort; a healing balm in time of sorrow. It reflects our keenest woe, our highest joy and the

most secret longing of the heart. (Star Points now resume stations and Patron continues):

My Sisters what effulgence did the rays of the Star shed upon the heroines of our Order?

ADAH: Spiritual loveliness stood out pre-eminently in the tender young life of Jephthah's only daughter. A page in sacred history recounts her moral and virtuous principles; her strength and sweetness of character. Her affection for her warrior father filled her with anxiety. Devout supplication was a part of her daily life and prepared her womanly heart for the fateful sacrifice.

RUTH: Duty and love were inseparable in the life of Ruth. Her supreme devotion to Naomi has left a train of consequences reflecting honor and humility. Her obedience to the call of duty enriched her heart as fully as the golden sheaves of barley adorned the fields of Boaz. It was through religious sentiment that Ruth fulfilled the holy obligation of filial piety.

ESTHER: The Persians being an artistic race sought the beautiful in life. Hadassah, later named Esther, was their most beautiful woman and for this reason was chosen the consort of King Ahasuerus. Reared in affluence and refinement her educational growth was accompanied by expansion of womanly graces and charm. Part of her daily life was consecrated to the Jewish religion. When crime and

devastation were pronounced upon her people she sought the cloister for supplication and implored her race to fast and pray. By appearing at the foot of the throne in charming royal splendor she inveigled the king to grant her request. This lovely vision possessed that innate beauty peculiar to the christian character.

MARTHA: In the little home in Bethany where Martha was mistress of the family, each department of her labor abounded with hope and a faith that a kind Providence was ever protecting her. Every minor operation of her life was a belief that religion could be applied to each endeavor. She was self sacrificing and performed the physical labor about the house and superintended the growing of flowers for the pleasure of Jesus when he dropped in for rest and spiritual repose.

ELECTA: The earthly conditions of the Pagans were not appropriate to Electa and when spiritual light was restored to her she was happy to cast aside her idolatrous worship. She was an elect-lady and was sustained by guardian angels. She had a revelation of the coming of the Messiah, a prophesy foretold by Isaiah.

Electa was contemporary with Jesus, though she never met Him. She kept an authentic record of his sayings and ministrations which was valuable in writing the Books of the New Testament. Like this

mother in her newly found religion, we cling to that hope which is life eternal. More than bonds of fellowship are reflected from the Points of the Star, there are bonds of love, that holy mandate given by our Master.

GRAND MATRON: Sister Grand Marshal. Duty is imparative and we trust your supervision over all processions was directed with zealous care.

GRAND MARSHAL: Countless pagents have passed in review; some in gala attire; some in war-like attitude stepping in rythmic measure to call of fife or tatoo of drum.

Today we realize a vast army has laid down shield and sword. The finite has been conquered by the infinite; the mortal has surrendered to the immortal and a triumphant band of fraternal workers has passed in review before the Highest Tribunal.

GRAND MATRON: Sister Grand Secretary. Have you preserved authentic evidence of these lives?

GRAND SECRETARY: In closing the record of these friends, who have preceded us a short time, we find written on pages of spotless white deeds of benevolence. Their motto has been, There is sorrow attendant upon every wrong inflicted; there is joy benign in every good accomplished. They have left volumes in remembrance distinctly enriched by

the character of their service. Memories fragrant in friendships that have graciously influenced our days and plans. The swift days whisper time is fleeting and that the volume which contains our daily record will soon be a closed book.

GRAND MATRON: Sister Grand Treasurer. Is your message one of promise?

GRAND TREASURER: In the Treasure House of Memory as we pause to take cognizance of their virtues our minds are filled with retrospection. Sadness comes to the heart with the vision of the vacant chair and the absence of the form we knew. We listen for the voice that is still; we seek the vibrant touch of the unseen hand; we yearn for the companionship that afforded reciprocal affection and they have vanished. The imprint of life is left—the shadow or the silent influence. We still have the essence of the distilled flower that will linger long after the golden calyx which produced it has faded into nothingness. “The body is but the outer garment which the soul sheds when it returns to its maker.”

GRAND MATRON: Sister Grand Warder, what is your message in regard to their exit?

GRAND WARDER: Grand Matron the door has been well guarded, but they have passed beyond our vision. They left as quietly as fall the shades of

night and as gently as the sun lifts the curtains of the morning.

CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS:

COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY:

GRAND MATRON: Associate Grand Patron. What is your impression of our passing?

ASSOCIATE GRAND PATRON: In accordance with divine law God has made provision for those He has taken (choir sings "At the Cross," etc., while officers form Cross as per diagram. Associate Patron remains standing and continues):

The Cross was revered as a symbol before the advent of Christ and has been honored by ages and nations since His crucifixion. It stands for a conquering religion. In some countries it is equivalent to the word immortality. Pre-historic peoples used it on their urns as a sign of eternal life. John's narrative of Jesus' anguish on the cross, that drama of Calvary, of his burial and resurrection stands out pre-eminently that life is eternal.

GRAND MATRON (Steps down and lifting a basket of roses says): In nothing does God better portray His love for us than in the flowery kingdom. Flowers are His perfect ideas and silent messengers of compassion. They whisper as quietly of the benedictions of heaven as the dewdrops glistening on the quivering leaf. He fills their golden hearts with

distilled nectar for our pleasure and comfort. The rose has been acknowledged the queen of flowers because of its beauty and fragrance. It is also the symbol of Christ and the emblem of life and love.

My sisters you represent that most sacred symbol which united with the rose has taught the secret of immortality to the world.

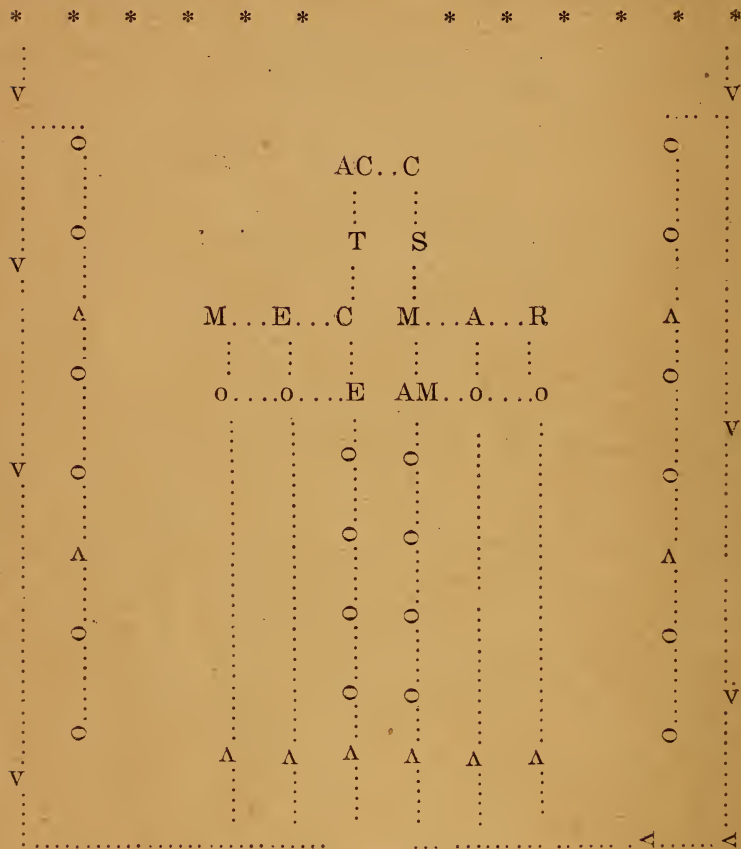
“There is no death!
We push away the veil, and stand
Entranced before the infinite and grand.

There is no loss!
We hasten on to find
The glorious treasures of eternity.

There is no lack!
When past are shadows of unrest,
We glimpse the real, the object of our quest.

There is no doubt!
The childlike trust that has no fear
Serenely waits and knows that God is here.”





The Altar, draped in lavender or white, is placed in the East, bearing an open Bible. A Cross has been prepared upon which to hang a basket of roses. To form the Cross, Officers take positions same as for retiring in local chapter. Twelve other ladies, as indicated in margin, follow officers to form upright beam and horizontal bar, marching six abreast.

The Rose Still Grows Beyond the Wall

"Near shady wall, a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its fragrance day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shown a beam of light.

Upward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride
It followed the light through the crevice's length
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening river
Were found the same as they were before;
And it lost itself in beauties ever
Breathing its fragrance more and more.

Shall claims of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage fail?
Nay! Let us faith and hope receive;
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will for ever more."



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